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*Admitted only in Maryland
*Admitted only in Virginia
*Practice Limited to
Federal Agencies

September 5, 2003

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Art Unit 1761

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 10/050,047; Filed: January 17, 2002
For: **Methods of Increasing Hardness of Food Products**
Inventors: Egbert *et al.*
Our Ref: 1533.1510001/SRL/JLP

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

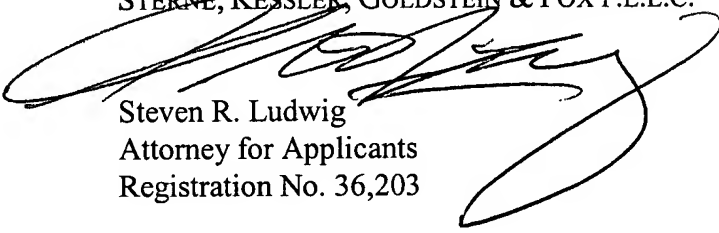
1. Status Inquiry Letter; and
2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


Steven R. Ludwig
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 36,203

SRL/JLP/tc
Enclosures
SKGF_DC1:174994.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

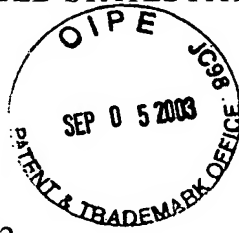
In re application of:

Egbert *et al.*

Appl. No. 10/050,047

Filed: January 17, 2002

For: **Methods of Increasing Hardness
of Food Products**



Confirmation No. 1188

Art Unit: 1761

Examiner: Nina Bhat

Atty. Docket: 1533.1510001/SRL/JLP

Status Inquiry Letter

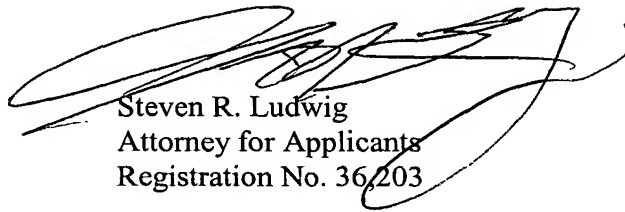
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please advise the undersigned of the present status of the above-identified patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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Date: 9/5/02

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